

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Chayka et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,810,016 (hereinafter Chayka) in view of Cherry, U.S. Patent No. 4,780,670 (hereinafter Cherry) and Long, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,621,333 (hereinafter Long).

With regard to claim 1, the applicants note that Chayka discloses a rigid support 32 and a plurality of contact fingers 26 supported by and extending from support 32. Chayka does not show a circuit board with a network of resistors and capacitors connected to the probes. Cherry discloses a network of resistors and capacitors disposed on a printed circuit board and connected to probe needles 74. Cherry, however, does not show a substantially flexible circuit board supporting contact fingers. The printed circuit board disclosed by Cherry is substantially rigid, as it comprises a glass/epoxy or phenolic resin (col 3 lines 65-68).

Long discloses a probe comprising a test head including a rigid circuit board connected to an inclined contacting device. Long also, does not show a substantially flexible circuit board supporting contact fingers.

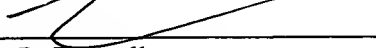
It would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to realize that a flexible circuit board would be desirable in such a probing environment to control the amount of over travel when the fingers make contact with the device under test (as described in the specification). In contrast, it was assumed in such a probing environment that the need to maintain the plurality of probe tips in alignment with the test pads on the device under test generally necessitates a substantially rigid and coplanar probe assembly. Hence, independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over any prior art combination of Chayka with any other references, e.g. the cited Cherry and Long references.

This Amendment is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination, together with the requisite fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-1550.

Respectfully submitted,

CHERNOFF, VILHAUER, McCLUNG & STENZEL

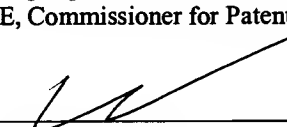
Dated: November 20, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 20, 2006.

Dated: November 20, 2006


Kevin L. Russell